

manship. He entered upon his arduous duties with decision and energy, and for a year at least his administration ran along fairly well. In the west the brilliant George Rogers Clarke captured Colonel Hamilton, the English leader of Indians, and sent him in chains to Jefferson. The captive was a dangerous man and had inflicted wanton barbarities upon Americans. Jefferson, in retaliation, chained him and threw him into a dungeon. Protests arose, and the Governor bending Washington's judgment finally unshackled the prisoner and committed him to parole. The capture of Hamilton and his flight was a most fortunate event for Virginia, for it freed her west border from the danger of Indian incursions; it was also fortunate for the American cause, for it secured to the Americans possession of a vast area (the North West Territory) that otherwise would have been claimed by the English when settling terms of the treaty of peace.

Jefferson's first year in office passed without disaster, he was re-elected for a second term. Serious troubles now began; The enemy was pressing hard upon the southern border and most strenuous action was imperative. Gates went south in 1780 to take command, and it was Jefferson's judgment if Virginia was to be saved from the scourge of a British invasion it must be through Gates. All his efforts, therefore, were directed toward strengthening the hands of that general in the Carolinas. The counties were scoured for men; warehouses (including those of the Governor) were impressed into service, blacksmith shops were converted into armories; ladies asked—and not in vain—to contribute their jewels to the cause; But all this exertion came to naught. In August, 1780, Gates was defeated with shame and disaster at Camden, South Carolina, and the march of the enemy northward, although temporarily checked, could not be checked. In October a British fleet of sixty ships, with three thousand regulars under General Leslie, entered Hampton Roads, where they remained, waiting for a conjunction with Cornwallis. Greene and the yeomanry of North Carolina were making traveling slow and difficult for